

Updates, continued from cover

Abernathy cont.

Georgia Department of Transportation also will be implementing a traffic pattern shift near the start of November between Columns Drive and Riverside Drive, moving traffic onto the new bridge into four ten-foot lanes. We will provide updates on what and when to expect these pattern changes, including updates at facebook.com/COSSGA and on the City's website at www.sandyspringsga.org.

I-285 Bridge at Roswell Road:

Utility relocation work is currently underway surrounding the bridge at I-285 and Roswell Road. This phase of the project is expected to be completed in early 2012, with construction estimated to begin in March. Most of the construction will be conducted during off-peak hours to lessen impact on traffic.

The project will add a northbound lane and a southbound lane, as well as a dedicated turn lane for vehicles entering I-285. The ramps entering I-285 will also be widened. Updates will be posted on www.sandyspringsga.org and on facebook.com/COSSGA.

Ball Mill Creek Bridge:

We'd like to thank Engineered Restorations, Inc. for their quick work in repairing the Ball Mill Creek Bridge. The bridge closed on August 15 when it was determined through an underwater inspection that the bridge had an undermining of one of its foundations. While repairs were expected to take six weeks to complete, Engineered Restorations was able to complete the project two weeks ahead of schedule, and under budget.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thanks for your Service



Photo Courtesy of Donna Ham

From left to right - Kristene Sisson, Kyle Sweeney, Dwight Harrell, Mark Ware, Chief Jack McElfish, Joe Borrillo, Jason Ellis and Reginald McClendon.

September 11, 2011 was a beautiful day and set the stage for ceremonies held throughout Sandy Spring to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. The City's police and fire departments were especially touched by the many acts of kindness they experienced from residents throughout the community.

"The community has been very gracious," said Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Ham. As an example, Ham said Fire Company One was invited to pick up a gift basket from their local grocery. When they arrived, store employees and customers flooded out to greet and present the crew with more than a single gift basket. Each of the store's departments presented the firefighters with trays of food, floral arrangements and delicious treats of all kinds.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sandy Springs History Lecture Series held each Monday night in October from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Sandy Springs City Hall in the Council Chambers. There is no admission fee.

November 11, 2011 as the City of Sandy Springs hosts the Second Annual Veterans Day Celebration. Check the city's website at www.sandyspringsga.gov for details.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.gov

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770-730-5600

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/COSSGA

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SANDY

SPRINGS TIMES

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Why a City Hall?



In recent weeks we have heard comments regarding the desirability of Sandy Springs building a city hall or municipal complex. We want to make sure all are clear on the City's intentions. Yes, your elected officials are committed to the City government eventually occupying space the City will own. We were unanimously acclaimed when in 2008, we were able to buy the Target property at a good price as the eventual site for the City complex. That decision is as sound now as it was in 2008.

One principle to which your elected officials are committed is to create this municipal complex without an increase in the property tax. We stand firm to our pledge to follow a frugal approach - to accumulate the cash down payment needed, and then to substitute payments on the remaining debt by eliminating costly lease payments. In other words, the City will meet its debt payment without a tax increase.

This procedure is really no different from what we do as individuals to finance our homes. First, we have had to save enough for the down payment. Then we pay off the mortgage rather than paying a landlord a monthly rent. There is a difference: in the public sector a bond issue may replace the mortgage, since publicly issued bonds generally carry a lower interest rate than a bank mortgage.

We've had admonitions we should not build a Taj Mahal or fancy complex, especially given our current difficult economic times. This message caused me to seriously analyze why for time immemorial people have built what may be considered imposing structures. Why do we have historic court houses with notable architecture scattered across the State? Why are houses of worship in our communities often the most beautiful buildings in town? I believe these brick and mortar assemblies reflect the aspirations of the community who built them. These structures are a reflection of each of us and our community. The beauty of the sanctuary or the dignity of a court house is not a glorification of the minister or of the elected officials. Rather, they represent the values of the people who attend the services or enter into their public spaces.

As I watch news coverage of events in Washington, many times the background scene is of the US Capitol. It never fails to grab me. This beautiful dome, with its spreading wings, represents the nation of which I am terribly proud. I am thrilled at its beauty. It is part of me! I believe this same sense of pride is how citizens of Sandy Springs will feel about the municipal complex in the near years, as well as for generations to come. It will reflect their values and vision.

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Road Project Updates FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Dunwoody Place:

Over the past couple of months the project has focused on utility relocation work. This was a critical area involving four separate utility companies, and had to be completed before work on new signals could begin. We are currently installing traffic signals and relocating poles that are in conflict with the paving. Paving is expected to begin in early October, followed by road striping and coordination of the signals. We realize the road work will cause delays and slow traffic in the area. We appreciate the public's patience, and hope to have the project completed by mid-October.

Abernathy & Johnson Ferry:

Mark your calendars for Oct. 12, 2011 when the City will host an informational meeting to provide an update and answer your questions about the roadwork and park in the Abernathy / Johnson Ferry area. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Sandy Springs City Hall, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500.

There are several initiatives that will impact your travel in the area throughout October and November. Work will begin on the reconstruction of the existing bridge, while rails will be installed on the newly constructed bridge.

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Fire Chief Receives Heart Association Mission Award

During the October 4, 2011 meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council, Fire Chief Jack McElfish was presented with the American Heart Association's 2011 American Heart Association Mission Award. This prestigious award was presented in recognition of Chief McElfish's dedication and contribution to the mission of the Heart Association.

Chief McElfish was recognized for his leadership in helping Sandy Springs become a "HeartReady" city. The City also was praised for its commitment to training city employees in CPR, hosting CPR events in the community, and increasing the number of Automated External Defibrillators for public access within the community.

In particular, the Heart Association noted the "Learn it...Before you Need It" CPR pocket cards. These cards utilize Quick Response (QR) Code technology, allowing the public to use mobile communication devices to download information, including an instructional video, to assist in the recognition and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. More than 10,000 cards have been distributed throughout Sandy Springs, with the American Heart Association planning to replicate the program nationally.



Fire Chief Jack McElfish

2011 Crossnine Award Winner



Fire Protection Engineer
David Adams

The Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs (SEAFC) presented the prestigious 2011 H.D. Crossnine Award to Fire Protection Engineer David L. Adams, Sandy Springs Fire Rescue. The award was presented on August 25, 2011 at the Fire Rescue International Conference held in Atlanta.

The SEAFC presented the award to Adams for his 20 plus years of commitment, dedication and leadership in the development, enforcement and promotion of fire safety codes and standards. His contributions to this important work are numerous and ongoing.

"David is considered an expert in the fire and life safety code community," said Fire Chief Jack McElfish. "He has committed his career to developing codes that will make buildings safer to its occupants as well as in the event of a fire."

The Crossnine Award has been presented only 8 times since its inception. Established in 1995, the Award commemorates the career and contributions of retired Memphis, TN fire marshal Deputy Chief Herbert D. Crossnine. Chief Crossnine contributed greatly to the Association's efforts to develop fire safety codes and standards in line with fire service values and the needs of communities served.

Community Development - PLANNING 411

If you are working on any type of development project – no matter how small or large – the City of Sandy Springs Community Development Department would like to help make the process an easy one. Every Thursday morning, staff is available to meet with you to answer your questions.

"We want to be a resource to make the permit process easier," said Interim Director of Community Development Nancy Leathers. "Planners, site review staff, public works staff, and our arborists keep Thursday mornings open to meet those working on development projects to answer questions."

To schedule time to meet with the Community Development team, please contact Johnny Lawler at jlawler@sandyspringsga.gov or 770.206-1589. Please contact Mr. Lawler by Tuesday at 5 p.m. to arrange meeting time for that Thursday's session.



Break from the Heat



Recreation and Parks to install shades over the playground equipment at Morgan Falls Overlook Park.

The Recreation and Parks Department is set to install shades over the equipment to give some relief to visitors who utilize the playground at Morgan Falls Overlook Park. The City's newest and most popular park opened in July 2010 during some of the hottest months of the year.

The new park is quite different from existing parks around the city as it lacks the substantial tree growth that the others have. As a result, shade is very hard to come by, especially on the popular playground and its equipment.

"We have heard about how great the park is, but the one thing we kept hearing over and over again was how hot the playground area was," said Recreation and Parks Director Ronnie Young. "We want to offer some respite during the hotter months of the year providing some shade while out at the playground."

Beginning on November 14, 2011, Morgan Falls Overlook Park will be closed for at least three weeks to accommodate installation and construction of two shades. The shades will be installed over the large and small equipment in the park, and will have the ability to be taken down during poor weather and during the winter months.

City Hall, continued from cover

Creating a central complex also provides a center point for our city. We currently do not have much of a downtown. We all aspire to have one—a centralized place for business, shopping and simply getting together with friends. Those in the real estate and development world have said that a city municipal complex can provide the jump start needed to bring about the redevelopment of Roswell Road

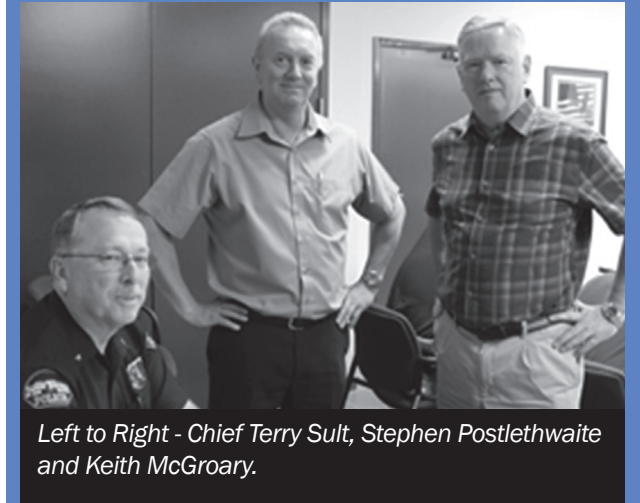
We have an objective, but the vision we follow will have to be articulated by the community in the ensuing years, as public input helps guide the contour of our future City complex. Rest assured that we, as always, strive to make decisions with the welfare of our citizens and business community at the forefront.

Eva Galambos

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs



Note from the Police Chief



Left to Right - Chief Terry Sult, Stephen Postlethwaite and Keith McGroary.

Sandy Springs Police hosted two instructors from the United Kingdom September 13 and 14.

Stephen Postlethwaite and Keith McGroary, were invited by Chief Terry Sult to conduct two training sessions on the topic of Problem Oriented Policing.

Postlethwaite is the Strategic Crime and Disorder Risk Advisor at Hampshire County Council, Southampton, UK; Keith McGroary is Community Safety Manager and Economic Development Officer at Spelthorne Borough Council, Knowle Green, UK.



ANNUAL

The Second Annual Sandy Springs Police Benevolent Fund Black Tie Charity Ball will be held Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at the Glenridge Hall Estate. The charity event will include gourmet food, cocktails, live entertainment, dancing and a charity auction. Parking for the event will be available at the parking garage at 20 Glenlake Parkway with a complimentary shuttle service to Glenridge Hall. For more information, contact Rhonda Sult at 980-721-4920 or by email at result@bellsouth.net, or Cathy Riehn at 770-551-6910 or via email at criehn@sandyspringsga.gov.